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## STORY OF LOS ANGELES TIMES EXPLOSION REVEALED AT LAST BY FULL CONFESSION

### How McNamaras Plotted to Destroy Building And Kill Gen. Otis—Indian- apolis Trial Clears Up Startling Mys- tery

The story of the Los Angeles Times explosion of October 1, 1910, has been told at last. It was told on the witness stand in Indianapolis, where the government is weaving a net around the dynamiters who took part in the country-wide conspiracy. From time to time shreds of this story have reached Honolulu. Below the details are published here for the first time.

### McNamara's Confession Recited by McManigal

Ottie E. McManigal declared that McNamara confessed to him that when he was in the Times building, before the explosion, he twisted off a gas jet and then the following conversation ensued:

McManigal—Why did you break off the gas jet?

McNamara—Because when the explosion occurred I wanted the whole building to go to hell.

McManigal—And you knew there were so many people in there, too?

McNamara—What's the difference? I was to make a good cleaning out and I did it. But I am sorry so many were killed. I hoped to get Gen. Otis.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Nov. 14.—For the first time since the twenty-one persons were killed in the blowing up of the Los Angeles Times building on October 1, 1910, James B. McNamara's detailed confession of the explosion was made public and related on the witness stand in the dynamiting conspiracy trial today.

Ottie E. McManigal testified that the confession was given to him while he was hiding with McNamara in the woods, five miles from Over, Wis., both of them having gone to the woods on the pretext of being hunters.

Furnished the Explosive

Ola Treitmo and Eugene A. Clancy, San Francisco labor leaders,

McManigal testified, were named by McNamara as having made arrangements for the Los Angeles explosion and as having furnished the two men—F. A. Schmidt and David Caplan—to assist in buying the high power nitro-gelatin, because Schmidt and Caplan had been regularly employed on the Coast by the building trades council of California.

Caplan and Schmidt, named by McManigal, were indicted in Los Angeles county with James B. McNamara on charges of murder, but they never have been captured. Government agents have been informed that Caplan was killed.

McManigal said that on November 6, 1910, he went to Kenosha on a hunting trip and James B. joined him there. They went with the party to a camp five miles in the country.

Tried to Shoot Him.

"On Nov. 9," said McManigal, "I missed James B. and started out alone to look for some deer. Standing on a tree stump, I suddenly heard the crack of a pistol, but looking around saw no one. Every one was supposed to wear a red cap to distinguish people from deer. I saw no red cap, but presently I saw James B. suspiciously flashed into my mind. I accused him outright.

"I think you were taking a shot at me," I said. "If you do you had better be quick about it. This is a fine place up here to get rid of a man—just shoot him and the coyotes will eat up his body."

Just to Scare Him.

"He replied he just did it to scare me. Then, we being alone for the first time, he sat down and told me about the Los Angeles job. He said when he went to the coast in July he got in touch with Treitmo and Clancy, according to instructions from his brother, at the headquarters of the iron workers' union in Indianapolis. Treitmo and Clancy, he said, put Caplan and Schmidt at his disposal, because they had been working for the California building trades council.

Schmidt was too much of a talker, he said, and when he blew up a job in Oakland, Aug. 20, he made Schmidt stay in San Francisco.

"When he returned to San Francisco, Schmidt was waiting for him and on the strength of the fact that the bomb had been set in Oakland, went to see Treitmo and got \$500 from him that night. J. B. said he also did the Seattle job, Aug. 31.

Plenty Money on Coast.

"Leading up to the Los Angeles explosion, J. B. said he found he could get all the money he wanted on the coast. He said Treitmo was the big paymaster and there never was anything to fear, for Treitmo was a

friend of Mayor McCarthy, and, in fact, Treitmo was the mayor of San Francisco.

"He said Schmidt had a scheme to set off bombs by chemicals, which he had learned from a friend of Treitmo, but when he (McNamara) showed them the alarm clock scheme they all decided it was best. Schmidt and J. B. went to Los Angeles and looked over the Llewellyn and Baker Iron works plants and the Times building. James B. sent back to his brother a postcard on which was partly written and partly printed: 'It now reads: "The Times for the news."

It will soon read: "The news for the Times."

Difficult to Buy Explosives.

"I asked him why he went after the Times. He answered that Treitmo had put him on to it. Then he told me about how difficult it was out there to buy explosives; how they decided at last to get a launch and buy nitro-gelatin of 85 per cent. strength from a powder company, on the representation that it was to be used for blowing up stumps on a ranch; how he sent his men to arrange for buying the explosive.

"He said the clerk at the powder company reported they did not make an explosive that strong. He told me how at last he got 500 pounds of the explosive on the launch, after changing the name of the launch, and how, when they got in the bay they attracted the attention of other vessels because the launch would not make any headway and got in the way of others.

Too Much of Talker.

"He said when his stuff was ready to take to Los Angeles he had a talk with Treitmo, telling him either he or Schmidt would have to do the job alone, not both of them, for Schmidt was too much of a talker and had a woman friend in Los Angeles that he (McNamara) did not want to get mixed up in the job.

"Then he told me he had set the bomb in what is known as 'ink alley,' in the Times building, in some ink barrels and old paper. Going in he said he was stopped by the night watchman, who asked him what he wanted in there. He replied he was going to the composing room. The watchman let him pass. He was again stopped by a boy, but he also told the boy he was going to the composing room.

Broke Off Gas Jet.

"The boy directed him to a door or stairway, I think he said. He reached the basement, and while passing along it tore off a gas jet. I asked: 'Why did you break off the gas jet?' He replied: 'Because I wanted the whole building to go to hell.'

"I said I was surprised he would do

it, knowing there were so many people in the building. He answered: 'What's the difference. I was to make a good cleaning out and I did it.' Then he thought for a while and added: 'But I am sorry there were so many people. I wanted to get Gen. Otis.'

"He told me he put the infernal machines at the residences of Gen. Harrison Gray Otis, proprietor of the Times, and Felix J. Zeehandelaar, secretary of the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association, all to go off at 1 o'clock in the morning. He said on the way back East he was frightened by the people talking of the explosion.

Afraid to Face People.

"He said he could not bear to look anybody in the face, and he thought everyone on the train was looking at him. At Salt Lake City he said he could not stand it any longer, so he stepped off the train and got in touch with J. E. Munsey, who hid him in his house for two weeks.

Telling of other explosions, McManigal testified that in September, 1910, he was sent to Chicago, where he talked with William Shupe and James Coughlin, iron workers' union officials, about a job to be blown up between Gary and Pine, Ind., but which he did not blow up because the job was not properly located.

He said that after news of the Los Angeles explosion was published, J. J. McNamara, secretary of the iron workers' headquarters in Indianapolis, sent him to Worcester, Mass., to cause an "echo" of the Pacific Coast explosion in the East.

Wanted An Echo East.

"I want an echo of that Los Angeles affair in the East, so if they catch J. B., they'll think they have the wrong man," McManigal said was the way J. J. instructed him.

McManigal said he went to Worcester and caused two explosions there October 9. On the return, he testified, he called at the home of Frank C. Webb, in New York, and left a message that if any more work was to be done in the East, word should be sent to J. J. McNamara in Indianapolis. He said he also looked up the possibility of blowing up jobs in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

DETAILS OF PLOT AS  
TOLD BY WITNESSES

INDIANAPOLIS, Nov. 16.—Indicents of James B. McNamara's preparations to blow up the Los Angeles Times building, in the wreck of which twenty-one persons were killed, were blended into a dramatic story by ten witnesses from California at the "dynamite conspiracy" trial today.

How the dynamiter rented a furnished room in Mrs. Lena Ingersoll's flat in San Francisco; how he got in touch with F. A. Schmidt and David Caplan, his alleged accomplices; how he called up from the flat to procure the gasoline launch Pastime and to buy 500 pounds of 80 per cent nitro-gelatin, a high explosive, and how, after fixing the Los Angeles Times explosion to occur at 1 a. m., on October 1, 1910, he returned to San Francisco and at 11 o'clock that night begged Mrs. Ingersoll to allow him to remain there, offering her a whole month's rent, were details related by people who had personal dealings with McNamara.

Stored in Empty Cottage.

James C. O'Brien told how a cottage owned by him on Nineteenth avenue south, in a remote part of San Francisco, had been entered before the Los Angeles explosion, and how, when, several weeks later, he went out there to learn why the cottage was not occupied, he found ten boxes of nitro-gelatin locked in the parlor.

O'Brien said, in his ignorance of what the boxes contained he looked into one box with a lighted cigar in his mouth and, thinking the explosive was candles, knocked a stick against the box. A Los Angeles detective related what he saw when he arrived at the site of the Times building.

Another development of the day was an admission by Frank Eckhoff, of Cincinnati that he aided in the escape and concealment of McNamara after the dynamiter was returning East. Eckhoff also admitted having demanded money from the McNamaras "to keep his mouth shut."

Tells of Renting Room.

Mrs. Ingersoll was the first important witness to be called. She said she now lived at Victoria, B. C. She said, on September 1, a month before the Los Angeles explosion, she rented a room to McNamara, who used the alias J. B. Bryce. Later McNamara was visited by Schmidt, who was described as having a "squinny left eye, or a glass eye."

Schmidt, also known as Schmitt or "Schmidty," lived at the home of a Mrs. Lavin, a friend of Mrs. Ingersoll's. It was in this way that McNamara was directed where to rent a room.

On Sept. 14 McNamara left Mrs. Ingersoll's and went to a hotel. From the hotel, as testified to by a telephone operator, most of the calls were made to the powder company for the purchase of the explosive and to the owners of the launch in Oakland.

Wanted to Rent Flat.

Mrs. Ingersoll said she did not again see McNamara until the night of October 1.

"At about 11 o'clock he came to the house and wanted me to give him a room," she testified. "I could not make arrangements at that hour. Then he begged me to allow him to sleep on a sofa, saying he would give me the rent of the flat for a whole month. I declined, and he left. On the following night he called on the

phone and again wanted to come and I again refused to allow him. That was the last I saw of him until after his arrest."

Miss Ethel Gill, a telephone operator in San Francisco, identified records of calls by McNamara to the powder company and to the launch-own-ers.

For a Fishing Trip.

She was corroborated by John Stanley, keeper of the boathouse at Alameda, across the bay from San Francisco. He testified that late in September, two men, identified as McNamara and Schmidt, who gave the name of F. A. Perry, said they wanted to rent a launch for a fishing trip for a week or ten days. They selected the gasoline launch Pastime, but Stanley referred them to Edward H. Baxter and Allen D. Burroughs. These two owners testified that McNamara and Schmidt negotiated for the renting of the launch, finally agreeing to pay \$40 for ten days, and giving \$500 cash security, which later was refunded, September 20, a written agreement was entered into and McNamara, after being instructed how to run the launch, took possession of it.

The next step in the testimony was the testimony of Harrison M. Nutter, clerk in a hardware store in San Francisco, who sold \$1.50 worth of aluminum letters to make two sets of the word "Peerless." In that way the original name "Pastime" on the launch was disguised by the name "Peerless."

The keeper of the boathouse, after the Times explosion, noticed that nails had been driven about the launch's name and paint had been applied, although on its return the craft bore its original name.

About the middle of September Bruce McCall, an employee of a powder company, testified he received a phone call from the "Bryce Construction Company," inquiring about the purchase of 500 pounds of high explosives, to be used to blow up dumps on a ranch.

"I told the caller that 20 per cent was strong enough for that," said McCall, "but he insisted he wanted 90 per cent, nitro-gelatin. I replied we only made it 80 per cent, but we did not have it in stock. A man called and left an order for 500 pounds and paid the bill. He gave his name and address, saying he would call and get it in a launch."

Two days after the launch was rented, McCall testified, Bryce, or Bryson, called on the phone and said he would go in a launch to Giant station down the bay to get the explosive.

"I told him he would have to come to the office and get a written order and I would have to know about the launch. He sent up a man later described as David Caplan. This man professed not to know anything about the launch, and had to go to Oakland to find out. When he returned I gave him an order for the delivery to him of 500 pounds of 80 per cent."

James C. O'Brien and August Miccio told of the renting of the San Fran-

cisco cottage in which the explosive was stored.

"Several weeks later, passing the house, I thought it was queer that the people had not moved in," said O'Brien, the owner.

"I had a key and entered. I noticed that all the rooms were empty, but the front room was locked. Opening that, I saw ten boxes partly covered with a tarpaulin. One of the boxes was open, but the others were filled with boxes weighing about fifty pounds each. I pulled out one stick in the open box, thinking it was a candle. I was smoking and I knocked the stick against the box to see what it was. Presently I noticed the sticks were marked nitro-gelatin, 80 per cent. That was enough for me, I said 'good night' and ran to tell the police."

Condition of Building.

Frank D. Carroll, police detective of Los Angeles, told about the condition of the wrecked Times building, when he arrived there at 7 a. m. He also described the contents of a bomb found on the premises of Felix Zeehandelaar. It contained sixteen and one-half sticks of the explosive, a dynamite cap, fuse, battery and a clock.

Eckhoff, a friend and neighbor of the McNamara family in Cincinnati, told how he met James B. McNamara in a Nebraska town and assisted in the dynamiter's return East by way of Chicago and Omaha.

On cross-examination he admitted that knowing the dynamiter had killed persons in Los Angeles, he realized the precautions necessary to conceal his identity. That he demanded \$500 from the McNamaras "to keep his mouth shut," threatened if they did not pay he would inform the authorities.

That after the McNamaras were arrested he repeated his demand for \$500, but received no response.

"You mean to say that if McNamara had paid you the money, you would not be here now to testify against these defendants?" asked Attorney William M. Harding, for the defense.

"Probably not," said Eckhoff.

Eckhoff said that long before the loss of life at Los Angeles he knew James B. McNamara was dynamiting jobs. He said he himself was sent to blow up a job in Cincinnati, for which he had been promised \$50, but he met the watchman and did not do it. He said McNamara had a hiding place for nitroglycerine in the woods on a hill about a quarter of a mile from the McNamara home and about five miles north of Fountain square.

"One thing McNamara said he wanted done," went on Eckhoff, "was to kill Miss Mary C. Dye, a stenographer at union headquarters, in Indianapolis. He said she knew too much about dynamiting, and he proposed to talk to J. J. about having her zot out of the way. He said he thought it would be a good idea if I followed her on a train and put a small bomb under her, timed so that it would explode after I got off the train."